



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**  
P.O. Box 41000 • Olympia, Washington 98504-1000 • (360) 902-7300 • [www.ga.wa.gov](http://www.ga.wa.gov)

October 30, 2003

**TO:** Capitol Lake Adaptive Management Plan Steering Committee Members:  
The Honorable Chris Parsons, Vice-Chair, Council Member, City of Tumwater  
The Honorable Laura Ware, Council Member, City of Olympia  
Grant Fredricks, Chair, Washington Department of General Administration  
Richard Blinn, Director, Thurston County Water and Waste Management  
Department  
Gary Cooper, Aquatics Asst. Region Manager, Washington Department of  
Natural Resources  
Jeff Dickison, Policy Analyst, Squaxin Island Tribe  
Andrea Fontenot, Public Works Director, Port of Olympia  
Beryl Fernandes, Regional Director, Washington Department of Ecology  
Sue Patnude, Regional Director, Washington Department of Fish and  
Wildlife, Region 6

**FROM:** R.D. Fukai, Director

**SUBJECT: CAPITOL LAKE ESTUARY RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY**

The Department of General Administration (GA) wholeheartedly endorses the estuary restoration feasibility study. We have allocated \$200,000 to the project and an additional \$79,000 of staff time to support this effort.

We recognize that the Capitol Lake environment has changed significantly since it was established in 1951. Water quality has deteriorated, volumes of sediment are steadily filling-in the lake, noxious aquatic weeds are thriving, flooding portions of downtown Olympia is an annual concern and recreational opportunities on the lake have been restricted. The lake is changing and not for the better.

GA supports the adaptive management philosophy to research all possible aquatic options relevant to this issue. An estuary is one of those options; other options include dredging the lake, doing nothing, or perhaps a hybrid combining many different approaches. "Dredging", to retain a lake environment, would require permits that we know will be extremely difficult to secure. Furthermore, dredging would be very expensive and ongoing. "Doing nothing" will mean that the lake will fill in with sediment and will ultimately result in a freshwater marsh. The "doing nothing" approach does not make any of us good stewards of our respective responsibilities.

We need this unbiased scientific research to provide us facts on which our management and investment decisions can be made. It will also help us determine if a healthy, self-sustaining Deschutes Estuary is even possible. Without this data, we will never know.

cc: Lenore Miller, Department of General Administration  
Dave Schilperoort, Department of General Administration